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**Date:** Friday, February 19, 2010 04:34PM  
**Subject:** CBIFA for students

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Re: CBIFA to Students, 2/19/10  
From: Mary Pearl

Another busy week, and still not over, as I hope to see many of you this evening at 6 at the library for the Open Mic night in honor of Black History Month.

About 40 high school students came for campus tours this week, and many sat in on classes. Rohan Howell and his team are to be congratulated once again on another hugely successful event. Faculty members Kurt Bretsch, Elizabeth Newman, Camille Abbruscato, Jim Quigley, Michael Sperazza, and Tara Rider were kind enough to host these students in their classrooms, and thanks to all the students who helped make our visitors comfortable. We have two days set aside for visiting accepted students -- March 12th and April 10th, so those will also be important for making sure the best students decide to join our community.

I am so pleased that so many students turned out for Dick Despommier's lecture about the concept of vertical farming, which took place at the first event of the Pre-Law Club. He left his powerpoint for us to share. I will make sure it gets distributed. There were a lot of interesting questions and discussions of his idea, which came out of a medical ecology class he taught in 1999. The basic idea is to produce excellent food close to consumers without using pesticides and without wasting irrigation water. At the same time, concentration of farming would remove pressure on forests for conversion to agricultural lands. The first demonstration construction will be in Amman, Jordan. Professor Despommier will be back on campus, I am sure.

Speaking of wasting water, a student on the West Campus has created a student chapter of Global Water Brigades, the world's largest student-led global health and sustainable development organization. It is dedicated to improving access to clean water and sanitation. The student, Kathy Chiu, is holding information sessions to discuss a possible trip to build an irrigation system in a place in Honduras in late May. The info sessions will be 2/24/ at SAC 221 at 8:30, and 2/25 at 8pm at SBU 247.

Much closer to home, Peter Priolo, a senior, picked up on the idea expressed in last week's CBIFA memo about SUNY-wide education initiatives and the possibility of bio-inventories of every campus, because it turns out that he is already conducting a Natural Resources

Inventory for the Peconic Land Trust. He is interested in organizing such an inventory for our campus. You will hear more about this project in the coming weeks.

Next week we have two really interesting speakers coming to our campus. On Wednesday at noon, Lee Newman from Brookhaven National Labs will be here. She conducts research on phytoremediation, which is the use of plants to clean up contaminants in water and soil. She also studies how bacteria on roots can be used to improve the growth and development of trees.

Then on Thursday in the evening, Rossana Rosado will be speaking in Duke. Ms. Rosado is an amazing person who grew up in the Bronx without the benefit of a lot of material resources, but has risen to become the CEO and publisher of the oldest and largest Spanish-language newspaper in the U.S. I hope you will join me there. Others who will be coming to hear her speak include Southampton's new Town Supervisor, Anna Throne Holst, and other community and faculty members.

I have learned this week that Anamaria Cobo de Paci will not be returning to our campus as Dean of Students. Instead, she will be working from her home in Pennsylvania researching sustainability programs at colleges around the country. I look forward to seeing the results of her study, which she will conduct through the end of this calendar year. Bill Burford, who stepped in to help cover her responsibilities these past few months, will be the Interim Dean until we hire a new Dean of Students. My expectation is that we will have a new Dean hired to start July 1, 2010. Next week I will confer with colleagues here and on the west campus to learn how the university conducts and involves students in searches for student affairs hires, and then we will get started.

Enjoy the weekend!

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